

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

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CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /125 W

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R 251611Z MAY 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 112

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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PASS STR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR DENT'S MEETING WITH LDC'S

1. SUMMARY: INFORMAL MEETING OF AMBASSADOR DENT WITH SEVERAL PRINCIPAL LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' DELEGATES TO MTN CHARACTERIZED BY GOOD WILL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE. LDC'S REPRESENTED WERE BRAZIL (MACIEL), INDONESIA (AWUY), JAMAICA (WALKEER), INDIA (CHADHA) AND YUGOSLAVIA (TOMIC). END WUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR DENT EMPHASIZED THAT MTN SHOULD PROCEED ON EASIER SUBJECTS, LEAVING HARDER AREAS FOR PERIOD OF ECONOMIC UPTURN. IN DOING SO HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF LONGER TERM GOALS.

3. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL MALAISE IN GENEVA CAUSED BY ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND THE US-EC AGRICULTURAL DEADLOCK. TOMIC INDICATED THAT IF WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THIS UPTURN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, LITTLE WORK COULD BE DONE IN GENEVA IN THE NEAR TERM. AMBASSADOR DENT REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN THE COMING MONTHS. HE NOTED THAT U.S. DOMESTIC PROCEDURES WERE GOING AHEAD AS SCHEDULED, AND THAT THE COMPROMISE WORKED OUT ON AGRICULTURE WITH THE EC WOULD PERMIT WORK TO MOVE FORWARD BOTH IN LONDON AND GENEVA ON GRAINS AND IN THE MTN IN GENERAL.

4. AMBASSADOR DENT NOTED THAT FIGURES FROM THE U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE INDICATED THAT THE RECESSION WAS BOTTOMING OUT AND THERE WOULD BE DEFINITE SIGNS OF AN ECONOMIC UPTURN BEFORE THE END OF 1975. THE U.S. WAS PUSHING AHEAD ON ALL FRONTS AND EVEN DURING THE RECESSION, PREPARATORY WORK WAS BEING ACCOMPLISHED WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR SOLVING THE MORE BASIC PROBLEMS. HE NOTED MTN COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS PROCESS AS IT IS ONLY THROUGH IMPROVING MARKETS FOR BOTH BUYERS AND SELLERS, WHICH IN TURN WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CLIMATE FOR SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

5. IN A REFERENCE TO THE EARLIER IMPASSE ON AGRICULTURE AWUY POINTED OUT THAT ONE CAUSE OF THIS MALAISE WAS APPARENTLY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING DOMINATED BY US-EC DIFFERENCES. AS A RESULT SPECIFIC TREATMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS NOT YET BEEN DEFINED EVEN IF DIFFERENCES ON TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. WOLFF INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED THAT US-EC DISCUSSION WAS OVER PROCEDURE, IN ACTUALITY IT LARGELY CONCERNED U.S. DESIRE TO DEAL IN LONDON WITH QUESTIONS OF FOOD RESERVES WHICH WOULD BE OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S IN FIGHTING PROBLEMS OF HUNGER. THIS POSITION WAS AN ACT OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT BY THE U.S. STEMMING FROM THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BY TOMIC ON SIGNIFICANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANCE OF KANSAS CITY SPEECH BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, GLITMAN AND LANDE REVIEWED ITS SIGNIFICANCE. SPECIFIC EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON KISSINGER'S REFERENCE TO SUPPLY IN THE MTN. CHADHA REPLIED THAT TOKYO DECLARATION SPOKE SPECIFICALLY OF IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING PRICES NOTING IT CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SUPPLIES AND QUESTIONED WHETHER U.S. PLANNED TO ADD THIS ISSUE IN MTN.

7. AMBASSADOR DENT REPLIED THAT BEST WAY OF IMPROVING PRICES AND RETURNS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THROUGH INCREASED MARKET ACCESS AND INVESTMENT. SPECIFIC COMMODITY OBJECTIVES OF THE U.S. WERE BEING DEFINED IN A CURRENT HIGH LEVEL USG STUDY. THE KISSINGER SPEECH REITERATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE EACH COMMODITY PROPOSAL ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. WHILE CONSIDERATION OF COMMODITY APPROACHES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TREATED IN TRADITIONAL FORA, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE MTN COULD ADDRESS ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM. MACIEL STATED A SENSE OF DEJA VU WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. POSITION WHICH HE FOUND REMINISCENT OF THE EARLY 1960'S BUT INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO WAIT FOR SPECIFIC U.S. ARTICULATION THIS POLICY.

8. ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF SPECIAL TREATMENT OF LDC'S, AMBASSADOR DENT POINTED OUT THAT WORK ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS MORE ADVANCED THAN WORK IN ANY OTHER AREA. THE U.S. WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE TO MOVE AHEAD IN THIS AREA AND WAS AWAITING COMPLETION OF SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CHADHA POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FINALIZE REQUESTS UNTIL OUR GSP WAS IN EFFECT SINCE FINAL PRODUCT COVERAGE NOT CLEAR AREA. AWUY EMPHASIZED IMPROTANCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONSIDERING EX-OUTS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS FROM GENERAL CATEGORIES AS METHOD OF SPECIAL TREATMENT. IN RESPONSE,WE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER AWUY'S APPROACH ON SPECIFIC BASIS. WE ALSO EMPHASIZED ADVANTAGE OF MFN CUTS. SEVERAL LDC REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR GSP RATHER THANMFN CUTS BECAUSE OF DESIRE FOR PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR PRODUCTS WHERE THEY HAD A SMALLER SUPPLIER POSITION. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' DELEGATES WERE PLEASED WHEN WE INDICATED OUR AIMS TO PUT OUR GSP INTO EFFECT BY NOVEMBER 1, WHICH MEANT THAT EXPECTED PRODUCT COVERAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD BE KNOWN SOON AFTER SEPTEMBER RETURN TO WORK IN GENEVA.

9. TOMIC CLOSED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT ACCESS TO MARKETS,AND INVESTMENT WAS OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING DESIRED ECONOMIC GROWTH. FOR THESE REASONS THE MTN WAS OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEM.
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